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Loudoun Newcomer Puzzles Neighbors

Controversial Leader Lives On Heavily Guarded Estate

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

If you look between the trees along Rte. 704 in rural Loudoun County one weekend day, you might see the men in camouflage fatigues going through their drills, local residents say.

Neighbors say they have grown accustomed to the groups of men with semiautomatic weapons rushing across the rolling fields of the Woodburn Estate outside Leesburg. On a recent Saturday, a resident said, he heard what he thought was shooting from the old estate. "It sounded like light mortar," the neighbor said. "A sort of a 'kapook.'"

The people who stay at the Woodburn Estate say there are no mortar emplacements on the premises. But they say guards there carry an array of handguns—Colt Combat Commanders, Walther PPKs, MAC10s—and other armaments. There are sandbag-buttressed guard posts near the estate's 13-room Georgian mansion, cement barriers along the road and sharp metal spikes in the driveway.

The heavy security is for Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. LaRouche, who lives on the estate, is a perennial right-wing presidential candidate who is convinced he is in imminent danger of assassination by hit teams dispatched by the Libyans, the Soviets or narcotics pushers.

In part because LaRouche says he finds the Loudoun countryside safe, he and his associates are moving into the area in a big way. LaRouche's associates have bought three properties in the county worth a total of more than \$1 million, and they agreed to buy another for \$1.3 million until the deal fell through.

LaRouche, 62, is the leader of a tightly knit worldwide organization known for its shifting ideological stances and apocalyptic rhetoric, according to interviews with former associates of LaRouche, numerous individuals familiar with the group, and government and law enforcement officials, as well as an examination of the group's internal documents and publicly distributed literature.

LaRouche's group blames many of the world's ills on plots by the Soviet secret police, the queen of England, "the dope lobby," Jewish organizations and other groups it considers to be its enemies, the organization's literature shows. The group has 500 to 1,000 members, former associates of LaRouche say.

The group, which started as a left-wing socialist sect in the 1960s but which turned to the right in the

1970s, has espoused an ideology that some Jewish groups say is anti-Semitic. Its philosophy is a mishmash, but the main thrust is that LaRouche and his followers are virtually the only force on Earth able to stop nuclear war and world starvation.

The organization supports itself financially through a variety of means, including sales of its literature and intelligence-gathering for corporations and individuals, said LaRouche and some associates. He gets public funds as well—LaRouche's recent presidential campaign received \$494,000 in federal matching funds, federal records said.

So far, in addition to renting the Woodburn property, corporations operated by LaRouche's associates have bought three properties in Loudoun for \$1,048,000. At this point, about 25 of LaRouche's associates have joined LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in the Leesburg area, sources said.

The group also has decided to move many operations of its national headquarters from Manhattan to Loudoun, say people familiar with the group. As many as 200 LaRouche followers are expected to move there to work in a new printing plant and office complex the group is building in a Leesburg industrial park, according to former members of the group and a Loudoun County official.

In this historic region, where monuments pay tribute to Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederacy and farms stay in the hands of families for seven generations, residents are greeting LaRouche with intense curiosity. They do not know how to react to him, and some are afraid.

"We feel if we rock the boat, they could get nasty with us," said one county resident who has dealt with LaRouche's associates but who, like most of the dozen or so local people interviewed, does not want to be identified. "We have to coexist with them, but we don't agree with their political beliefs."

To Leesburg Police Chief James Kidwell, Lyndon LaRouche's entry into Loudoun County is shaping up as a clash of cultures.

"Out here are more country people," Kidwell said. "It's a different world they're in. They'll learn as they go along. The things they're interested in, the country people aren't interested in."

Indeed, LaRouche and his group seem strikingly out of character in a variety of ways in slow-paced, neighborly Loudoun.

According to former members of LaRouche's organization and other individuals familiar with its operation, group members follow LaRouche's dictates almost without question. Members of the group—

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which is known as the National Caucus of Labor Committees but which also operates through a number of other groups—generally are discouraged from maintaining personal relationships with people outside

the group, said ex-associates and others knowledgeable about the group.

Members of the organization also have harassed some of its critics and journalists who have researched it, the same sources said.

LaRouche denies that he is a cult leader or that his associates harass anyone. In a U.S. District Court trial in November in Alexandria, he also denied that he plays a leadership role in any of the organizations identified with him. In the trial, LaRouche lost a libel suit against NBC, and the network was awarded a \$3 million judgment against LaRouche for his group's attempt to sabotage a network interview. He is appealing the verdict.

Loudoun residents say they know almost nothing about their new neighbor. Many express puzzlement over LaRouche's statements in court that he is almost penniless (despite his extensive world travels and well-to-do life style at Woodburn), and his assertion that he cannot pay NBC the \$3 million.

Several residents said they also were perplexed by LaRouche's half-hour televised presidential advertisements in the weeks before the Nov. 6 election. LaRouche said, among other things, that Democrat Walter F. Mondale was an "agent of influence" of the Soviet secret police, the KGB.

'A Complete Blank'

"Nobody really knows what his work is or what his motives are," a Loudoun native said of LaRouche. "It's a complete blank."

"I feel Mr. LaRouche has long ago fallen off the deep end," said Frank Raflo, a Loudoun supervisor who said he drew his conclusion in part from one of LaRouche's television advertisements. Raflo said that LaRouche and Loudoun locals have been getting along "peaches and cream, nicey nicey," but that behind the scene, "I think he's being received with nervous laughter."

Other residents say they fear that Leesburg is headed for the same fate that befell rural Antelope, Ore., where hundreds of followers of Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh moved in and took over the town. But LaRouche has only a fraction as many followers as the Bhagwan, and LaRouche and his associates say they want to live in harmony with Loudoun locals.

But LaRouche acknowledges that his presence may cause a stir.

"There's going to be controversy, 'What's this ogre doing in Leesburg?'" said LaRouche in a November interview at a bookstore his associates opened in the town. "They can find out by coming here and getting one of my books."

Most residents acknowledge they have never seen LaRouche. The only encounter most residents have had is seeing the security guard at Woodburn's fortified entrance, who calls in reinforcements by walkie-talkie when motorists pull over for a look. Others have spotted the group's caravan of cars moving down the highway in tight formation.

Generally, the only people in the area who have dealt with the "LaRouchians"—as they're called by journalists and researchers who follow their activities—are Loudoun lawyers, real estate agents, contractors and other professionals.

"They are some of the nicest people I've ever dealt with," said one Loudoun man who has met several of them. "They're intelligent, well educated, pleasant." But most locals try not to discuss politics with them, the man said. "People keep their distance from that . . . [LaRouche] is a hot topic up here."

Local officials say LaRouche is presenting them with a quandary. They have tried for years to attract investment to the county, but some say they are not sure this is the kind they had in mind. One concerned Leesburg official, who requested anonymity, said the town could not legally bar LaRouche even if it wanted to. "I don't know what a community does in a case like this," the official said.

LaRouche started his move into Loudoun in August 1983, when he, his wife and others moved into an approximately 25-acre section of the Woodburn Estate that includes the large brick manor house and two other homes. The property, and several hundred more acres leased by farmers, is owned by a Swiss-based company.

In the last several months, corporations associated with the LaRouche group have bought three other properties in the county.

In June they bought a 9.8-acre tract in a Leesburg industrial park. The seller, Dudley C. Webb Jr., said he and his family were paid the full \$373,000 at the property closing. The new owner, Lafayette/Leesburg Ltd. Partnership, is developing a 60,000-square-foot printing plant and office complex on the site, said Mark Nelis, Leesburg's zoning administrator.

The company's two trustees are Edward Spannaus and J.S. Morrison, according to a deed on file at the Loudoun County Courthouse. Spannaus is a top LaRouche aide, and Morrison is a LaRouche supporter from New Jersey.

Nelis said that representatives of the company told him that construction of the complex is expected to cost \$3.1 million.

Nelis said that the company's representatives told town officials that the new plant would employ about 200 people, many of whom would be moving from New York. Lou-

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doun real estate brokers are already receiving telephone calls from editorial employees of LaRouche-affiliated publications in New York asking for housing advice, Nelis said.

'Don't Know What to Think'

Martha Semmes, who as Leesburg's planning director has the job of attracting business to the town, said 200 jobs would help the region, but she added that she has reservations.

"We really don't know what to think at this point," Semmes said when asked about the county's newest corporate neighbor. "I don't know enough about him to know what his potential impact on our economy might be."

In July, a LaRouche-affiliated company called Publication Equities Inc. agreed to pay \$400,000 for a 64-acre property in the county's rural Neersville area, near Harpers Ferry, W.Va. The company's only director is Spannaus, according to an incorporation document filed at the Loudoun County Courthouse.

In September, Publication Equities agreed to buy a storefront in downtown Leesburg for \$275,000 and quickly renovated it into an upscale bookstore, Ben Franklin Booksellers. The owners say they plan to build a domed room on top for a "cultural center."

In addition, last fall Spannaus signed a contract to buy a 171-acre estate outside Leesburg for \$1.3 million, according to documents on file in Loudoun Circuit Court. The estate includes a 14-room manor house with eight fireplaces, plus three other houses and numerous other buildings.

But a legal snag developed. One of the sellers, an elderly District of Columbia resident, is legally incompetent, and any sale would have required approval of a judge. The sellers' lawyer, George Schweitzer, said in court documents that he was "not totally satisfied" with the buyer's financial condition. A source said that the reason was that the LaRouche associates would not supply the financial statement thought to be necessary to get court approval.

Charles Ottinger, Publication Equities' Leesburg lawyer, said Spannaus then told him that he had agreed to have someone else take over his right to buy the estate. The new buyer, multimillionaire Oklahoma oilman David Nick Anderson, also agreed to buy the property for \$1.3 million, but under slightly different terms, according to court documents.

Anderson donated \$1,000 to LaRouche's presidential campaign last February, according to documents on file at the Federal Election Commission. Despite repeated telephone messages left for him, Anderson could not be reached for comment about his plans for the property.

That is only one of the questions Loudoun people are asking. Another, more basic question the locals are posing is: Why is the LaRouche group moving to Loudoun County in the first place?

LaRouche said in an interview that he is sick of New York City, which he calls a "sin bucket." His associates also say law enforcement officials there do not adequately protect him from assassination.

"In Virginia, Mr. LaRouche has been able to operate in a relatively secure environment," Jeffrey Steinberg, a top aide to LaRouche, said in an affidavit. "The terrorist organizations which have targeted Mr. LaRouche do not have bases of operations in Virginia."

There are additional reasons for the move to Loudoun.

Frequent Meetings

LaRouche said in an interview that he enjoys Leesburg because it gives him a shorter commute to Washington, where he said he frequently has meetings. LaRouche said he and his associates have been meeting for several years with officials in federal agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

In addition, says a former associate of LaRouche, a rural setting restricts members' contact with the outside world. The group has been losing members in New York in part because they come into contact with old friends and family members, and because of New York's rich cultural life, the ex-associate said. Years ago, he added, many group members moved into the same apartment buildings in Manhattan's Washington Heights neighborhood, and as members quit the group, they remained in the buildings.

"His remaining members had been contaminated by seeing happy former members," said the ex-associate. In Leesburg, members "would be isolated from ex-members, and totally creatures of the organization."

With each property purchase by the LaRouche group, the curiosity of local residents increases. Rumors circulate around Leesburg about the group's activities on the Woodburn estate.

After a neighbor complained that local children were scared to see bodyguards armed with semiautomatic rifles accompanying Helga Zepp-LaRouche on walks around the estate, county Sheriff John Isom said he visited Woodburn to talk to the security men there. Isom said that he was satisfied with their response and that there have been no untoward incidents on the estate.

At least five of LaRouche's bodyguards have permit applications on file in the Loudoun County Courthouse to carry weapons. Some of the bodyguards are longtime LaRouche followers, while others are professional security employees.

LaRouche said in an interview that his security is a constant worry.

"Since 1974 I've been under constant assassination threat," he said. "I'm constantly living under safe-house conditions. I live no normal life . . . I haven't had a place of my own to live in for 11 or 12 years."

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While he spends much of his time traveling or visiting the group's property in Wiesbaden, West Germany, LaRouche said he sometimes pays little attention to where he is. He said the 185-year-old Woodburn manor, known by architecture buffs for its beveled brick cornices and hand-carved mantels, is "just a safe house."

LaRouche said that he is pampered by his Woodburn associates, who cook and clean for him while he works in his office an average of 15 hours a day. Every morning he awakens to get intelligence briefings about world events from his associates, and he reads a report of up to 400 pages telexed from the group's worldwide offices, he said.

"I don't do much entertaining in the normal sense," he said. "What I prefer to do requires a long attention span."

LaRouche testified in federal court that he has no idea who pays the rent on the estate, the heating or telephone bills, his travel expenses or his lawyers' fees. He said in a deposition that his clothes are bought for him by his security staff.

"Almost No Income"

LaRouche testified that he has almost no income and has not filed an income tax return since the early 1970s.

LaRouche said in the deposition that he has been carrying the same \$20 in his wallet for years. "I have not made a purchase of anything greater than a \$5 haircut in the last 10 years," he testified.

Former members of the LaRouche organization back up his contention that LaRouche does not pay for anything, but say that others, including members of his security staff, pay for everything from restaurant tabs to cab fare.

One ex-member said that LaRouche enjoys a "wonderful life style" befitting a man making \$250,000 a year, according to an NBC transcript of an interview on file in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. "Mr. LaRouche is a master in making sure that nothing is in his name."

Lawyers for NBC say the source of LaRouche's money is of intense interest to them now because of the \$3,002,000 judgment the federal court jury ordered LaRouche to pay NBC. Karl W. Pilger, LaRouche's lawyer, says that LaRouche cannot pay NBC the money, and he points to a sworn affidavit LaRouche filed in the Loudoun County Courthouse. LaRouche said in the affidavit that his total assets are \$5,000, including \$3,700 in cash, some books and record albums, and three guns.

"I don't have any money," LaRouche said in the interview. "It [the judgment] will never be paid. It's a joke."

NBC attorney Peter K. Stackhouse is not so sure. Stackhouse said it is likely NBC will take depositions to determine whether LaRouche is "penniless or whether or not he is as wealthy as his life style suggests."

The six-person jury awarded the judgment Nov. 1 after finding that NBC had not defamed LaRouche and finding in favor of NBC in its countersuit. NBC had alleged that LaRouche followers tried to sabotage a scheduled network interview with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) by impersonating an NBC employe and a Senate aide. The interview was for one of NBC's broadcasts on LaRouche.

LaRouche's motion to overturn the \$3 million verdict is pending before U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris. LaRouche also has filed a notice of appeal in the libel suit.

The nine-day trial was virtually the first time that LaRouche has undergone extensive public questioning in a courtroom. During three days on the witness stand, LaRouche frequently responded with descriptions of his philosophy and his standing in world history.

He compared his writings to the works of Dante, St. Augustine and Plato, among others. He said that anyone who believes the NBC broadcasts, which were critical of him, is "crazy," "insane" or "a total illiterate and mental case."

Several times he lectured the jurors, shaking a finger at them and pounding a fist on the table to make a point.

LaRouche became visibly disturbed at times while being questioned by an NBC lawyer and occasionally responded angrily. At times, he swiveled his chair so that his back faced the lawyers.

On occasion, LaRouche looked over at the jurors and smiled at them. LaRouche has said he likes Virginians because he thinks that he has done well there in presidential elections and that they are receptive to his message. But this group of Virginians, three men and three women, apparently was not drawn to him.

"He thought he was making points with us," recalled one juror who asked to remain anonymous. "He was making us ill. He's so used to being surrounded by toadies, he doesn't know his effect on people."

"All of us had sores on the inside of our cheeks, either from biting them to keep from laughing, or to keep from screaming, 'You're crazy.'" the juror said. "The man was uncontrollable."

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Some Are Out to Kill Me, LaRouche Says

An Interview Can Be a Wild Ride Through Plots, Allegations

It looked like any other ribbon-cutting for an upscale bookstore. Horse country women and men in tweed jackets sipped the champagne, listened to the classical music and thumbed through the attractive art books that lined the wood-paneled walls at the opening of Ben Franklin Booksellers on Georgetown-like South King Street in Leesburg.

In the back room, shaking hands with well-wishers, was an author whose works lined a whole shelf near the cash register.

"The Soviets officially declared war on me," said the author, as several of his armed security men glanced nervously at women picking through the Renaissance prints nearby. "You're talking about a major assassination target." And, "yes, absolutely," former secretary of state Henry Kissinger is behind the assassination plot against him.

An interview with Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. can be a wild ride through the unconfirmable and the speculative. But the 62-year-old frequent presidential candidate pushes on, answering any question matter-of-factly in his New England accent, swooping across the centuries with references to obscure mathematicians, 18th century philosophers and German Nazi thinkers of the 1930s.

Jabbing and chopping the air to make his points during a rare two-hour interview Nov. 10, LaRouche showed little modesty about his station in life.

"I'm probably the best economist in the world today," he said. "I'm also one of the best-informed people in the world. We have influence on governments."

Walter F. Mondale, he said, is an "agent of influence" of the KGB, the Soviet secret police. So are Kissinger and McGeorge Bundy, the former Ford Foundation president and presidential adviser, he said, all "totally witting." They are agents of influence rather than regular agents, he said, because they are "working with the KGB, not for the KGB."

He said he was angry about the recent



LaRouche-tied group honors German poet who wrote of liberation from oppression.

federal jury verdict in Alexandria, which found that NBC television had not libeled him and awarded the network a \$3 million judgment against him. U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris bore some responsibility, he said.

"He rigged the trial.... The judge was corrupted in some way," said LaRouche, who is appealing the verdict.

LaRouche said he has tape recordings of two telephone calls that Mitch Snyder, an activist for the homeless, made to his

associates' office threatening LaRouche's life in the last days of the trial. LaRouche dismissed the fact that Snyder was immobilized in bed from a hunger strike on behalf of the homeless during that period. (Snyder said the allegations are "absolutely ridiculous.")

Soon afterwards, LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, a West German citizen, joined the conversation. She was supportive of her husband and protested what she said was unfair treatment of them in The Washington Post and other newspapers. "A total smear job, really vicious," she said. "We've done tremendous cultural work."

LaRouche's security men, whispering into walkie-talkies, then hustled him out the front door and down an alley to a waiting car.

Outside, in connection with the bookstore opening, a LaRouche-affiliated group, the Schiller Institute, was holding a parade to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the birth of German poet Friedrich Schiller. Schiller, whose poetry dealt in part with people's liberation from oppression, is Zepp-LaRouche's favorite poet.

The group's classical music concert nearby on the lawn next to the courthouse was a fairly highbrow affair, with sopranos singing such works as "Immer leise wird" by Brahms and "O Lucedi, Quest' anima" by Gaetano Donizetti. But the celebrants did join in singing "Happy Birthday" to Schiller.

Why Schiller? Nancy Spannaus, the head of the company that owns the bookstore and editor of the group's New Solidarity newspaper, said: "We want to revive the ideas of the American revolution and the German classical period, which are the ideas that man's freedom lies in his reason."

— John Mintz

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Group Makes Political Inroads Nationwide

LaRouche Candidates Win in School Board, City Council Races

Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., the right-wing independent presidential candidate, aired 14 half-hour nationally broadcast political advertisements last year, at a cost of up to \$230,000 each.

Sitting beside a fireplace in his rented Loudoun County mansion, LaRouche told viewers that the Soviets were planning nuclear war, that Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale and his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, are pro-Soviet and that Mondale is a Soviet secret police "agent of influence."

While LaRouche was the most visible of his group's electoral candidates last year, he was hardly alone.

The LaRouche-affiliated National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) said it ran 2,000 candidates for various offices around the country in 1984.

Members of NDPC, who call themselves "LaRouche Democrats," have been elected to local school boards, city councils and party committees, according to LaRouche associates and published reports. Although they have never won a statewide election, they sometimes receive as much as 30 percent of the vote.

The group says it tries to appeal to conservatives, and its candidates often are promilitary, prodevelopment and strongly anticommunist.

Many NDPC activists have said they are not members of LaRouche's core group. Persons familiar with both the NDPC and the LaRouche group say many NDPC activists have only passing understanding of the workings of the LaRouche organization.

Ralph Dratman, a New Jersey engineer, said that he was drawn to the LaRouche campaign when he saw one of its televised advertisements. He later subscribed to one of the group's publications, and he extended loans totaling \$1,000 to LaRouche's presidential campaign, Dratman said.



BY JAMES M. THRESHER—THE WASHINGTON POST
LaRouche at U.S. Labor Party headquarters here while running for president in 1976.

Dratman said he agreed with some of the ideas of the LaRouche group but found others "half-crazed." Dratman said that the LaRouche campaign is several months late in repaying his loans, and that he is "resigned to not being repaid."

Edward Elliott, a retired barber from Kensington who loaned LaRouche's campaign \$925 last year, said he subscribed to some LaRouche-affiliated publications and joined the LaRouche-affiliated Schiller Institute after some LaRouche followers visited him at his home about two years ago.

"I think he's a very intelligent man," Elliott said. "He's trying to do something for this country."

"He's interested in bringing more culture, in [bringing] the spirit of the American Revolution back," Elliott said. "I'm a conservative, I'm a Republican. He supports Reagan and tries to get him not to back down on some of his principles."

At the same time, the Democratic Party has criticized the NDPC for using the word "Democratic" in its name.

"The LaRouche cult has attempted to deceive the public into believing that they are part of the national Democratic Party," Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles T. Manatt said in a statement. "There is, of course, absolutely no connection whatsoever. We strongly condemn the activities of this fanatical cult."

But despite the criticism of Democratic leaders, LaRouche has managed to raise large amounts of money for his presidential campaigns—more each time he runs.

In 1976, when LaRouche ran for president on the U.S. Labor Party ticket, he raised \$176,000 and received 40,000 votes, Federal Election Commission officials said.

In 1980, he raised \$2.14 million to run in the Democratic primary (including \$530,000 in federal matching funds), commission officials said. He did not run in the general election.

Last year, running as an independent, he raised \$6.1 million (\$494,000 of that in matching funds) and received 78,000 votes while appearing on the ballot in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

LaRouche was not on the ballot last year in Maryland. He received just 127 votes in the District, but he fared much better in Virginia. There he amassed 13,307 votes—his second highest showing, behind Texas, where he received 14,613 votes.

— John Mintz

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Presidential Candidate's Ideological Odyssey

From Old Left to Far Right

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was January 1974, and Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., the leader of a left-wing sect, was telling his followers why they had to believe his story that one of them had been brainwashed by the Soviet secret police.

"Any of you who say this is a hoax, you're cruds!" LaRouche told his followers. "You're sub-human! You're not serious. The human race is at stake."

It was vintage LaRouche, filled with invective and dire warnings about the fate of the world, a style reflected in his group's literature and in his public statements.

Last Nov. 25, 1,500 people from 40 nations gathered in the ballroom of a Crystal City hotel for a conference of the Schiller Institute, named for 18th century German poet Friedrich Schiller. They heard another, more toned down address by LaRouche, by then a three-time presidential candidate espousing right-wing views.

"Men and women of other nations have seen proof that the spirit of 1776 is still alive within these United States," LaRouche

told the group, while his words were translated into four languages and piped into foreign visitors' earphones. "The United States of 1776 is not yet fully awakened, but forces within our government and among our citizens are sitting up and rubbing their eyes."

The story of how Lyndon LaRouche transformed himself from Marxist theoretician to red-white-and-blue conservative in 10 years is a tale of a political chameleon.

LAROCHE IN LEESBURG

Second of Three Articles

He has taken with him on his ideological journey a worldwide organization that follows his every instruction and mimics his every political twist and turn, according to interviews with former LaRouche associates and experts on the group, as well as the group's internal documents.

LaRouche "leads what may well be one of the strangest political groups in American his-

tory," the conservative Heritage Foundation said in a report. "LaRouche has managed to attract a small but fanatical following to his conspiratorial view of the world."

LaRouche lives on a heavily guarded estate near Leesburg in rural Loudoun County. Loudoun officials and former associates say the group is planning to move units of its national headquarters from New York to the Leesburg area. In the last several months, corporations tied to the group have bought three Loudoun properties worth more than a total of \$1 million and agreed to buy an estate there for \$1.3 million before the deal fell through.

LaRouche has a good deal of control over the lives of the members of his organization, known as the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), according to interviews with former NCLC members, others familiar with its activities, published reports and an examination of the group's internal documents, some of which were filed in a recent libel suit in Alexandria.

"It's a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day total immersion," said a recent dropout, who, like other ex-members interviewed, did not want to be identified for fear of retribution. "It's a situation where people wouldn't have any private lives anymore . . . Everyone's got to march to the same tune."

"He demands sycophantic obedience," the former member said. "He repeatedly tells the members he is in total control of the organization."

The members are "rank-and-file automata" devoted to LaRouche, according to one member's resignation letter several years ago.

The organization bred "pure psychological terror," the ex-member wrote. "The group was transformed into sniveling informers vying with each other for [LaRouche's] approval. Even couples were encouraged to 'inform' on each other's 'progress' . . . In most cases the marriages were preserved, although the relationships were totally broken."

The LaRouche organization has "taken on the characteristics more of a political cult than a political party," said a March report by Information Digest, a biweekly publication written by journalist John Rees. LaRouche's followers have "afforded him blind obedience," wrote Rees, a longtime specialist in LaRouche.

LaRouche said the notion that he is the head of a cult is "garbage . . . I don't have any control." He denies playing a leadership role in any of the organizations identified with him.

A top associate, Nancy Spannaus, agreed that the NCLC is no cult. "Mr. LaRouche's function is to encourage people to do as much independent research as they can," she said.

LaRouche associates point to the Schiller Institute's sometimes large conferences as evidence that his followers do not constitute a cult. The Schiller Institute has planned a march for tomorrow in the District of Columbia to protest starvation and "genocide" in Africa.

Paul Goldstein, a top LaRouche aide, said descriptions of the group as a cult come from former members who "have gotten burned out because of the pressure" of outsiders' attacks.

Former associates of LaRouche agree there is an atmosphere of tension in the group, but they say it is partly created by LaRouche and the group's other leaders. LaRouche-affiliated publications and the group's internal reports suggest frequently that members are under attack from outsiders.

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Members, many of them well educated and well spoken, generally work long hours for little pay for the organization, according to ex-associates and LaRouche himself.

Former members interviewed had varying reasons for quitting, including disagreements with the group's ideology and distaste for LaRouche. All the "defectors," as they call themselves, said they are trying to reconstruct their personal and professional lives. Several said they are embarrassed about their years with the group.

The organization's ideology is hard to pin down. The NCLC started in the late 1960s as a left-wing Marxist sect and then shifted to the far right in the mid-1970s. Its philosophy now is a thick stew of political ingredients. Some people have publicly expressed doubts that the shift to the right was authentic and believe LaRouche is secretly still a Marxist.

With the move from left to right, the group's perceived enemies shifted as well. But one fear remained constant: that LaRouche is branded for assassination.

Supporters think they are acting defensively and appropriately when they telephone critics of the group and threaten them, or follow them on the street, published reports and former members said.

"There is some horrible psychological craziness in this group," said one defector.

LaRouche was born Sept. 8, 1922, in Rochester, N.H., and moved with his family to Lynn, Mass., when he was 9, according to a 1979 autobiography. His father was a manager of a shoe manufacturing company, and his mother was a strict Quaker.

LaRouche wrote that his childhood was "bitterly boring and grey." He was a "semi-outcast" with almost no friends, he wrote, and he retreated to the world of ideas by reading Descartes and Kant.

In World War II, he originally was a conscientious objector and worked in a Quaker camp in New Hampshire, according to a statement by former representative Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.) that was placed in the Congressional Record in 1981. LaRouche then enlisted in the Army and served in a noncombatant role in the Burma theater, according to McCloskey's statement.

A former associate said that years later LaRouche told his followers that he became a socialist in India around the time of the war after witnessing leftist demonstrations against British rule.

He joined the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyist sect, in the late 1940s and started using the pen name "Lyn Marcus," which he continued using into the mid-1970s. LaRouche periodically supported himself by working as a business consultant, he said.

In the late 1960s, LaRouche attracted a small group of followers who attended his Greenwich Village lectures on Marxist eco-

nomics, associates said. LaRouche was known as an inspired Marxist theoretician at a time when other groups in the New Left were more given to street action. His group of about 100 believed its ideas alone could liberate the working class, and they said it would win state power in a matter of years, ex-members said.

LaRouche's followers were taken with his "intellectual brilliance," one ex-member said. "He had this amazing capacity to synthesize bodies of knowledge drawn from so many areas, from Beethoven and cognitive psychology to the philosophy of Descartes."

LaRouche was "eccentric and odd," a "mysterious character" who told a range of stories about his past and "stayed up for 24 hours at a stretch, talking nonstop," the ex-associate said.

In 1968, LaRouche's followers briefly took leadership of a student strike at Columbia University, but they ended up arguing with other leftist groups. LaRouche's followers later quit a leading New Left organization, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), over theoretical disagreements. Around that time they took the name they would keep, the NCLC.

LaRouche was "not domineering" in the earliest days, allowing dissent, one ex-member said. But by the early 1970s "his behavior changed increasingly and dramatically" in confronting members' disagreements, the ex-member said. Then he became "abusive and insulting" and resorted to "psychological intimidation."

In an interview, LaRouche denied that he had ever been a leftist, but he said that he

had merely been opposed to senator Joseph McCarthy, the Wisconsin Republican who led an aggressive campaign against communists. But this assertion is contradicted by former associates and by dozens of the group's publications and internal reports explaining his beliefs of that time.

Some former members speak fondly of these days of leftist fervor, because they said things started changing in mid-1972. That is when LaRouche split up with his common-law wife, who then moved to England to marry an English follower of LaRouche's, according to ex-members and published reports.

LaRouche began to become more strident in his attacks on perceived foes, said ex-associates and experts on the group. At

his urging, many members learned karate and street-fighting techniques, they said.

In April 1973, LaRouche ordered members to attack members of the Communist Party (CPUSA) and others in a plan called "Operation Mop-up," according to ex-members and published reports.

The group's newspaper, New Solidarity, reported then that "the NCLC has launched 'Operation Mop-up,' which will bury the Nixon-allied Communist Party in six to eight weeks." The article said the group would enter Communist meetings to accomplish this. "We destroy the CP," it went on, "because it is an absolutely necessary step to ensure that the working class in the USA and Western Europe is prepared with competent leadership . . ."

In the following months, there were about 40 fights at gatherings of Communists and others, according to former associates of LaRouche and published reports. Many people were injured, and some LaRouche supporters were arrested, but there apparently were no convictions.

"Mobile squads of helmeted, club-wielding goons invaded bookstores and offices of the CPUSA, Socialist Workers Party and Peking-line groups, attacking their members there and on the street," said the study by journalist Rees.

Former members said some attacks were in retaliation for assaults by Communists, and others were unprovoked. LaRouche said in an interview that his supporters fought only when attacked.

At the time, LaRouche berated his followers for not being tough enough and criticized those who tried to avoid participating in the fights, according to ex-members and persons knowledgeable about the group.

"People would be called on the carpet to explain themselves," said one former member. "They were told, 'If you thought this was bad, wait until the revolution, when people would be carrying guns.'"

"There was a tremendous emphasis on being psychologically ruthless: 'Can you guys really take it?' " another said. "Mop-up" started the organization's move toward being a "security-conscious, paranoid, 24-hour-a-day thing . . . It changed the organization psychologically."

LaRouche developed a set of theories he called "Beyond Psychoanalysis," and he and other top leaders held grueling sessions with members, grilling them about their lack of toughness, their sexual feelings or other supposed problems, according to ex-associates and internal documents.

"People were compelled to confess in front of a group the most personal things about their sexual lives, personal lives," one

former associate said. LaRouche's basic approach was, "Look what a wretch society has made of you, an infantile, impotent being," the ex-member said.

LaRouche said that only he could help his followers, and many begged to have sessions with him, former members said. Members were gripped with a "virtual religious hysteria" when they saw these criticisms as insights, one former associate said.

Continued

LaRouche outlined his therapy in a 1973 memo to members. He wrote that he was "taking your bedrooms away from you until you make the step to being effective organizers Your pathetic impotence in your sexual life" is a political matter, he wrote. "I will take away from you all hope that you can flee the terrors of politics to the safety of 'personal life.' "

LaRouche also said in the memo that the mother is "the principle source of impotence Can we imagine anything much more viciously sadistic than the Black Ghetto mother?"

In an interview LaRouche said it was around 1973 that he began to become concerned about his personal security.

In December of that year, LaRouche announced in a dramatic New York speech to members that Christopher White, the British associate who had married LaRouche's former common-law wife, had been kidnapped and then released by the CIA and the Soviet secret police, according to ex-members, published reports and the group's literature.

LaRouche said that agents had brainwashed White, then 26, with drugs and electric shock treatment and by forcing him to eat his own excrement. The agents then programmed White to set up LaRouche's murder by a hit squad, LaRouche said. He also told members they were all in danger of being murdered by the CIA, and that some of them had also been brainwashed.

"I was terrified like everybody else," said one ex-associate. The speech created an atmosphere of hysteria and fear, and a few members lost control and had to be restrained, according to former members and published reports.

Tapes, released to reporters, of LaRouche "deprogramming" White show LaRouche shouting at White, sounds of weeping and vomiting, and complaints by White that he is being deprived of sleep, food and cigarettes, a published report said. LaRouche said White was not mistreated, according to the report.

The episode involving White was described in documents read to the jury in the recent libel case in Alexandria.

Dozens of members begged LaRouche to deprogram them, too, ex-associates said. A number of members were interrogated for a few days at a time by the group's security squad, according to former members and published reports.

The group's public and internal publications around that time were filled with graphic references to members' fears and dependence on LaRouche.

These events, more than any other, changed the NCLC into a group under LaRouche's control, former associates said.

"It was so exciting, so bizarre," said one ex-member, who called the events "the great freakout of 1974." The ex-member remembered working extremely long hours for the group, and eating very little.

"I became theirs," the ex-member said.

"That's when it turned from being a political organization to being a cult," said another ex-member. "Once the members swallow something like that . . . you're willing to accept the deification of LaRouche."

Members went on a "war footing," another ex-member said, with many quitting their jobs and essentially cutting off relations with nonmembers.

"Your parents are immoral," the group's members were told in an internal bulletin several years later. "The people of the United States are not morally fit to survive Everything your parents say is evil—they are like lepers, morally and intellectually insane."

The change in the group prompted many of LaRouche's early followers to quit.

"You have made yourself a prisoner of a cult of infallibility around your person," one longtime close aide told LaRouche in a 1981 letter. "I cannot allow you to create a precedent whereby anyone can be subjected to charges of insanity and back-room frame-ups because they choose to disagree with you in an honorable and proper way."

Because of the perceived danger of attack against the group, LaRouche set up a security team within the group to protect himself, said ex-members and others familiar with the group.

Some LaRouche associates were trained in the use of guns, knives and other weapons at a "counterterrorism" school in Powder Springs, Ga., according to former members and other sources. The school was operated by Mitchell WerBell III, a former guerrilla operative for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and an international arms dealer with whom LaRouche grew close.

WerBell, a soldier of fortune with contacts around the world, introduced LaRouche and his followers to numerous military and intelligence officials, according to ex-associates and other sources.

In the mid-1970s, LaRouche began to describe intricate plots against the group by the CIA, the Rockefellers and others, the group's publications show.

Around that time, the group, by then better described as conspiracy-minded than left-wing, began making alliances with groups that shared its concern about supposed secret plots and conspiracies—the radical right wing. The NCLC's turn to the political right "happened without [most members] realizing it," according to one former member. "It happened through this hysteria."

One man with whom LaRouche and his group dealt in the mid-1970s was Willis Carto, the founder of the Liberty Lobby, according to LaRouche's deposition in a libel case last year and one by Carto in another lawsuit.

The Liberty Lobby, a right-wing group, has said it was never allied with LaRouche. Carto said in his 1980 deposition that the Liberty Lobby never endorsed the NCLC but that he was "quite impressed" with its members and that his organization's newspaper, Spotlight, had praised it.

Another man LaRouche met in the mid-1970s was Roy Frankhouser, LaRouche said in a deposition. Frankhouser, then a top official of Pennsylvania's Ku Klux Klan, pleaded guilty in 1975 to dealing in stolen dynamite. He had also been an informant for several federal and local law enforcement agencies, according to published accounts. Frankhouser has sent the LaRouche group "intelligence" about a range of subjects, former members said.

LaRouche said in a deposition that his organization has paid Frankhouser for various services. LaRouche said Frankhouser is "a good man on security" who works to spot "nasties" who pose threats. According to a July 9 LaRouche deposition, Frankhouser had been working for the organization as recently as one week earlier.

Despite the group's right-wing allies and conservative rhetoric, some critics say they doubt that the LaRouche organization truly abandoned its leftist principles and believe it merely faked a conversion to the right—a point raised by NBC in the libel case.

The Heritage Foundation said in a July report that despite LaRouche's appearance as a right-wing anticommunist, he takes political stands "which in the end advance Soviet foreign policy goals."

Daniel Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's intelligence arm, and a longtime LaRouche critic, said he believes LaRouche is an "unrepentant Marxist-Leninist" who faked the move to the right "to suck conservatives into giving him money." Some other former high-ranking intelligence officials, mostly conservatives, said they join Graham in this belief.

LaRouche and his associates deny these

Continued

allegations, and several ex-members interviewed back them up.

LaRouche is also sensitive to the frequent assertion that he is anti-Semitic. In the mid-1970s LaRouche publications began to criticize Jewish leaders and wealthy Jewish families for their supposed role in the international narcotics trade and other conspiracies.

The attacks reached their height around 1978, when the NCLC said in a position paper that "Israel is ruled from London as a zombie-nation." It called the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith "a treasonous conspiracy against the United States" and said B'nai B'rith "today resurrects the tradition of the Jews who demanded the crucifixion of Christ"

In October 1980, a New York State Supreme Court justice dismissed a defamation suit the NCLC had filed against the Anti-Defamation League and ruled that calling the NCLC anti-Semitic is merely "fair comment" or a matter of opinion.

In an interview, LaRouche said the idea that he is anti-Semitic is "crazy." He has said his attacks are on Zionists, not Jews.

Some of LaRouche's associates are Jewish, and they also deny the group is anti-Semitic. "It's totally a fabricated lie designed to smear Mr. LaRouche," said LaRouche aide Goldstein.

LaRouche associates said that instead of focusing on charges of anti-Semitism, outsiders should focus on LaRouche's economic ideas.

Many of his writings focus on the need to increase food production, increase industry in the Third World, restructure world debt and improve fusion energy technologies. The international narcotics trade is a frequent LaRouche target.

Some of LaRouche's statements are obtuse and hard to follow. For example, in a deposition, LaRouche described himself as "a neo-Platonic democratic republican."

In a letter LaRouche wrote in November to The New Republic magazine, in response to an article about his ties to federal agen-

cies, one passage reads: "The most relevant point is my support for the view that a review of physics from the vantage point of the Gauss-Dirichlet-Riemann approach to topology and electrodynamics affords us not only a more accurate picture than the Maxwell-Boltzmann approach, but a more direct and easier approach to comprehension of fundamentals."

One recurring theme of the LaRouchian ideology is that the world faces nuclear war or world starvation unless his ideas are implemented, according to LaRouche's writings.

In the last 10 years, LaRouche has issued countless warnings that the world was doomed in the coming months, according to the group's literature.

"There are about 200 predictions about the collapse of the world economy, each of which didn't add up," one ex-member said. "Amnesia is one of the necessary qualifications for membership."

One way the leaders communicate their thinking to members is through a daily memo, the "Morning Briefing." The briefing, sent by teletype from New York headquarters to offices around the country, has included the group's daily worldwide intelligence gleanings, reports from LaRouche and other leaders, and fund-raising tallies.

Members in the approximately 20 offices around the country usually review the briefing in the morning, ex-members said, and then go to work raising money or selling the group's literature in airports.

There is powerful peer pressure to be loyal to LaRouche, and leaving the organization usually involves an act of tremendous will, ex-members said.

"The preponderance [of early members] have left in disgust," said one former member. "They realized they've wasted years of their lives I woke up one day and realized I hadn't thought about the cult for two months. That's when you know you're back to normal. It took a couple of years."

NEXT: Intelligence gathering

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WASHINGTON POST
14 January 1985

Critics of LaRouche Group Hassled, Ex-Associates Say

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

Jonathan Prestage was a reporter with the Manchester Union-Leader in 1980 when his editors asked him to write an article on Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., the right-wing presidential candidate who was then stumping New Hampshire for votes in the state's Democratic primary. There were allegations by New Hampshire residents that LaRouche workers were harassing voters on the street and making odd late-night telephone calls to political figures.

LaRouche showed up at the newspaper's office with a group of about 10 people, Prestage recalled, several of them security men who left their guns downstairs. In a tense interview with the entire group glaring at him, Prestage said, he asked LaRouche about his organization's intelligence-gathering network.

"He said, 'You can't use that,'" Prestage recalled. "I said, 'Why not?' . . . He said, 'We have ways of making it very painful for people.' I asked, 'Is that a threat?' They just kind of chuckled." The next day, the paper ran an article by Prestage describing the exchange.

Prestage said that the day after the story ran, he awoke in his large old house in rural Barrington to find one of his cats dead on his back doorstep. In all, three cats were left dead on his doorstep over three days.

Prestage said he believes that LaRouche's supporters killed his cats. He is not alone in believing himself to be a target of their alleged harassment.

Former associates of LaRouche and others familiar with his organization said its supporters routinely use threats and questionable tactics to silence critics and former members and to discourage the media from writing critically about the group.

Supporters of the group also routinely use pseudonyms, or impersonate reporters or others, in their intelligence work, said ex-members and people familiar with the group.

LaRouche and his associates deny they harass anyone. An associate added that they had nothing to do with Prestage's dead cats.

In a deposition in connection with a libel suit against the NBC network last year, LaRouche said that at a 1980 New Hampshire news conference he said he was an executive of a "political intelligence operation" and that "amateurs" who "play games" with him would "get chewed up." He added in the deposition that that meant he would expose them.

Jeffrey Steinberg, a top LaRouche aide, said that reporters who complain of harassment have other motives. "A lot of journalists don't like us," Steinberg said. "We have the habit of asking questions that are embarrassing" to powerful people.

Paul Goldstein, another LaRouche aide, said in an interview that the organization is sometimes a little sharp in its criticism of people. "Our method is polemical," Goldstein said. "We aim to provoke."

One ex-associate put it another way. "To people who are unfavorable to them, they do whatever they can to commit character assassination," the ex-member said.

In a 1981 memo to members, LaRouche said the group should conduct "ruthless political campaigns" against its enemies. "We measure personal political performance by the number of enemies of humanity each region of the organization prodded into apoplectic fits that day."

"Since 1972, obedience to the NCLC [National Caucus of Labor Committees] leader has included carrying out . . . verbal and propaganda attacks on individuals and members of other groups LaRouche decided were his enemies," John Rees, who has been studying LaRouche for years, wrote in a report on the group in his newsletter. "First a series of vitriolic and obscene attacks [would be] unleashed in the LaRouche publications. There followed personal harassment in the form of midnight telephone calls, personal and photographic surveillances . . . telephone calls to friends and family members, picket lines at home and work, vexatious lawsuits and vandalism . . ."

One man who says he has borne the wrath of LaRouche supporters is Dennis King, a Manhattan freelance writer who has written extensively about the organization for six years. King declined to comment on the record about the alleged harassment, but he pointed to sworn statements that he has submitted in federal court cases.

Steinberg denied that the group harassed King but said King has urged people to harass LaRouche.

According to King's affidavits, the anonymous telephone calls started in 1979, soon after he started writing about LaRouche. Some threatened his life, he said. He estimated he has received 500 abusive or hang-up calls at home.

Leaflets handed out in New York around that time said the publisher of the newspaper he was then working for was a criminal and that its lawyer was a homosexual, King said. LaRouche publications accused all three of being drug pushers, and at least one article contained King's address and phone number, King said.

On Oct. 14, 1980, King said he received a telephone call threatening him with homosexual rape and murder. The caller also described how King was to be tied to a lamppost and beaten with a baseball bat.

On Feb. 20 1984, a LaRouche publication, *New Solidarity*, ran an article entitled, "Will Dennis King Come out of the Closet?" King said. Copies were left throughout his apartment building, he said.

Continued

The harassment extended to members of his family, King's affidavit said. In November 1980, the employers of King's father, then 79, received letters urging that the father be fired, an affidavit said. His father and other members of the family received numerous anonymous telephone calls about him, King said. The callers said King would be murdered.

In a deposition, LaRouche said King is with the "dope lobby" and that LaRouche's supporters have been "monitoring" him since 1979. "We have watched this little scoundrel because he is a major security threat to my life."

Another journalist the group has publicly denounced is Pat Lynch, an Emmy-winning NBC television producer who researched a network broadcast about LaRouche. Members of the LaRouche organization have picketed NBC's New York offices with signs saying such things as "Lynch Pat Lynch."

In October, on the first day of a libel trial in U.S. District Court in Alexandria in which LaRouche charged that Lynch's broadcast had defamed him, the NBC switchboard said a telephone caller threatened Lynch's life. A spokesman for the LaRouche group said it knew nothing about the threat. An FBI spokesman said an investigation is pending but declined to comment further.

The jury found that NBC had not libeled LaRouche but that his organization had tried to sabotage a network interview with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) The jury awarded NBC more than \$3 million in damages. LaRouche is appealing the verdict.

An NBC researcher in Chicago, Marcie Permut, 22, said that soon after she started working on a segment about LaRouche, someone started placing fliers around her parents' neighborhood in suburban Chicago stating that she was running a call-girl ring out of her parents' home. LaRouche associates say they have no knowledge of the matter.

"His outfit smacks of fascism to me," Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.) said in a statement introduced in the libel case. Mitchell said in an interview that LaRouche supporters tried to break up his political gatherings in Baltimore and distributed literature calling him a drug dealer and a "house nigger." Mitchell said he received several anonymous telephone calls, including one death threat.

"I knew it was them because I recognized some of their voices," Mitchell said. He said the harassment ended soon after he pulled a gun on a group of LaRouche supporters gathered outside his Baltimore home.

LaRouche organization publications have charged that NBC backs the "drug lobby" and that the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, another LaRouche critic, played a role in the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

In his deposition, LaRouche said that Daniel Graham, who criticized LaRouche in the 1970s when he was director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and again recently, is "psychosexually impotent." Graham's response: "It's a strange thing to call a guy with seven kids."

But the name that comes up perhaps more than any other in LaRouche's pantheon of enemies is former secretary of state Henry Kissinger. The preoccupation with Kissinger increased after June 10, 1982, when Kissinger's wife Nancy was escorting him onto a plane at Newark Airport for a trip to Boston, where he was to undergo triple-bypass surgery.

When a LaRouche supporter, Ellen Kaplan, started yelling abusive comments at him, such as, "Is it true that you sleep with young boys at the Carlyle Hotel?" Nancy Kissinger allegedly grabbed the woman by the throat. She was acquitted in a Newark court of assaulting Kaplan.

LaRouche publications have said that Kissinger is a Nazi and a murderer. In his deposition, LaRouche said Kissinger is "a faggot." LaRouche's supporters have demonstrated against Kissinger and heckled him at his speeches.

Former associates of LaRouche and critics of the group said they believe that LaRouche encourages such tactics because they engender angry responses, and make members of his organization feel more alienated from the outside world. "He likes to bait people into counterattack," said one former member. "It increases the sense [within the group] of being under attack."

Ex-members said that the organization brands as traitors those who quit the group. Former members said they know of several dropouts who have received threatening phone calls from supporters.

The LaRouche-tied New Solidarity newspaper in 1974 ran an obituary for three associates who it said had been murdered by federal agents. The three, who were still alive, had recently quit the group.

The group's internal memos in the 1970s and early 1980s referred to individual dropouts variously as a liar, a thief, "psychotic," a KGB pawn, "a scummy dupe," "a witting agent," "a pathological liar," "a zombie" and "virtually paranoid."

The organization has used a range of other unorthodox methods. One tactic is for members to misrepresent themselves while investigating someone. "It was a regular modus operandi," said one ex-associate.

Former members said they routinely used pseudonyms or posed as employees of other organizations, often as reporters. (That was what the federal court jury found the group had done in trying to sabotage NBC's interview with Moynihan.)

In 1982 U.S. News & World Report filed a lawsuit in federal court against LaRouche-affiliated publications charging that their representatives had impersonated the magazine's White House reporter in phone interviews. The defendants denied the allegations but agreed to a permanent injunction barring them from impersonating the magazine's reporters.

Jeffrey Steinberg, one of LaRouche's top aides, said in a deposition that he has posed as a reporter for nonexistent publications and that the group's policy is not to impersonate employees of existing publications.

LaRouche added in his deposition that his associates have infiltrated opponents' electoral campaigns to gather information.

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WASHINGTON POST
14 January 1985



NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES PHOTO

LaRouche, above, in photo taken in 1974, when he used the pen name Lyn Marcus; flyer, right, from group tied to him.

Injunction Against CIA & NYC Police for Insurrection Against U.S. Government

NEW YORK, Jan. 3, 5:45 p.m. — L. Marcus, Chairman of the National Caucus of Labor Committees, has just announced that his organization will seek an injunction against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the New York City Police Department from making further arrests of members of the NCLC. The cause for this injunction is that the CIA and NYPD are in a state of direct insurrection against the U.S. government and the Constitution of the United States.

These two insurgent government agencies are in the process of psychologically brainwashing extensive portions of the population with the ultimate plan being the takeover by the CIA of the United States of America. This plot by the CIA has been discovered through the de-programming of Chris White, a leading member of the International Caucus of Labour Committees. The initial plan was the assassination of important members of the leadership of the NCLC.

The NCLC is assembling a team of lawyers to prepare our injunction for a show-cause hearing on Friday morning.

TONIGHT! Hear the truth!

L. Marcus Exposes CIA-KGB Plot
Marc Ballroom
27 Union Square West 8 PM.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1

WASHINGTON POST
15 January 1985

Some Officials Find Intelligence Network 'Useful'

LAROUCHE IN LEESBURG

Third of Three Articles

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

Norman Bailey recalls that soon after he joined the National Security Council, he received a call from NSC officials asking him to talk to a group of followers of right-wing presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. who were offering intelligence information to the agency.

Bailey, then NSC's senior director of international economic affairs, said he found the visitors' intelligence on economics and foreign affairs surprisingly on target.

He said he met with LaRouche's followers numerous times in 1982 and 1983 in his Executive Office Building office, and three times with LaRouche himself—including once for dinner at LaRouche's rented Loudoun County estate. Bailey said he circulated within NSC a well-researched position paper that two LaRouche followers wrote about fusion energy.

"Some of them are quite good," Bailey said of LaRouche's associates. He said that he found them to be "useful" because of their "excellent" international contacts.

"They can operate more freely and openly than official agencies" such as the CIA, Bailey

said. "They do know a lot of people around the world. They do get to talk to prime ministers and presidents." Bailey also has described LaRouche's organization as "one of the best private intelligence services in the world."

It's a view shared by others in powerful places in Washington.

Through dogged work, the LaRouche organization has assembled a worldwide network of contacts in governments and in military agencies who meet regularly and swap information with them, officials and former members said.

In Washington, the LaRouche group has spent the last several years currying favor with officials of the NSC, CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, the military and numerous other agencies, as well as with defense scientists doing classified research, according to federal officials and ex-members of the LaRouche group.

"They've made a very concerted effort to influence the government," said Richard Morris, counselor to Interior Secretary William Clark and formerly Clark's assistant when he was NSC chief. "Their influence never went beyond the

mid-level. There's no way they could influence the president."

"They obviously want to impress, with their knowledge, people who are in the know in Washington," said Ray S. Cline, a former top State Department and CIA intelligence official who said he was approached by LaRouche associates in 1980 and has spoken with them a number of times since. "They're terribly eager to find somebody in government to talk to."

The LaRouche group stepped up its presence in Washington about 1981, when President Reagan took office, and it has publicly promoted many of his initiatives in its publications and on Capitol Hill.

Contacts With NSC, CIA

An NBC documentary in March disclosed the LaRouche group's contacts with NSC and CIA officials, and in November The New Republic magazine published an article by reporters Dennis King and Ronald Radosh that detailed LaRouche's Washington connections. King has reported on LaRouche's group for six years and has broken many stories about it.

In Reagan's first term, Executive Intelligence Review, a LaRouche-tied magazine, ran interviews with such officials as Agriculture Secretary John Block, Defense Undersecretary Richard DeLauer, Associate Attorney General Lowell Jensen, Commerce Undersecretary Lionel Olmer and then-Sen. John Tower (R-Texas), at the time chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The New Republic reported.

High-level Reagan administration officials "have found LaRouche as useful in supplying information and promoting their policies as LaRouche has found them in legitimizing his cause," The New Republic said.

LaRouche associates also have been active for years in West Germany, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, India, Thailand and many other countries, according to LaRouche-tied publications, ex-LaRouche associates and former government officials. The group has had dealings with a number of foreign government and military officials, according to these sources.

LaRouche himself has had private meetings with Jose Lopez Portillo when he was Mexico's president, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. LaRouche also met

Continued

with Iraqi officials during a visit to the Middle East in 1975.

Most of the 22 active and retired government and military officials interviewed said that they have been wary of speaking with the LaRouche associates.

It may seem far-fetched that a group that says that Walter F. Mondale is a Soviet secret police "agent of influence" and that the queen of England is involved in international dope-dealing could be "useful" to top federal government officials.

But a number of government officials say much of the group's intelligence is accurate. The LaRouche outfit has had more than 100 intelligence operatives working for it at times, and copies the government in its information-gathering operation, ex-members and other knowledgeable sources said.

Sometimes the group's intelligence reports reflect the organization's offbeat and

speculative allegations, but much of the time they do not, according to ex-members and a reading of some of the reports. Its reports on such subjects as the international debt and the industrialization of Thailand often read like government memoranda.

John Bosma, editor of Military Space magazine, recalled that in 1981, while he worked for a congressman on the House Armed Services Committee, he was approached by a representative of a magazine tied to LaRouche. The visitor asked about the odometer range of the cruise missile and other classified information, Bosma said.

"The guy knew what he was talking about," Bosma said. "It's a very sensitive subject. I was very surprised the guy was asking me questions at that level of detail. I said it was none of his damn business."

Gathering intelligence for corporations and individuals is one of the ways the LaRouche organization supports itself financially, according to LaRouche and former members. In a hypothetical example, a West German company might hire the group to investigate the Mexican oil industry for, say, \$5,000, said ex-members and persons familiar with the group's operation.

The organization's dealings with federal agencies have been made easier by LaRouche's move to Loudoun County last year. The group plans to move the bulk of its national headquarters there, according to sources and a Loudoun County official.

"LaRouche wants to wreak big changes on a world scale," a former LaRouche associate said. "They're trying to get access to the administration. They're trying to get inside the system through the old-boy network so they can manipulate it."

Some Officials Angered

The depth of LaRouche's entree in official Washington has caused anger in some quarters.

Former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, whom LaRouche associates have accused of being a murderer and homosexual, said in an interview that "there's no excuse" for top CIA and other intelligence officials to meet with what he considers an unsavory group. "It's a revolting episode . . . What can they possibly know we can't find out ourselves?"

Bosma, the military specialist, said he, too, is angry about reports of dealings between LaRouche and the administration. "If this is true, it's almost unforgivable . . . I'm a Reaganite, but I'm flabbergasted and appalled."

The conservative Heritage Foundation, a longtime LaRouche critic, expressed worry about possible security leaks in a report issued last July.

"A major concern regarding the LaRouche network arises from its apparent ability to penetrate high government circles—especially within the intelligence and police communities," the foundation said. "While some [of the LaRouche group's] claims may be overstated, and some of the contacts may have been low-level or self-generated, the potential for security breaches and other problems arising from such relationships remains very real."

After the NBC broadcast, Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles Manatt called on President Reagan "to end the shocking White House involvement with

the bizarre, extremist cult of Lyndon H. LaRouche . . . It is absolutely incredible that a [ranking NSC] staff member . . . would have anything to do with the LaRouche people."

When asked about NSC contact with LaRouche, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said in March that "from time to time we talk to various people who may have information that might prove helpful to us."

Marlin Fitzwater, another White House spokesman, said last month that "there's no official or unofficial [Reagan administration] policy or line in regard to dealing with the LaRouche organization. Any contacts are made at the discretion of the individuals involved."

For his part, Bailey, now a private economics consultant, said he felt he should listen to LaRouche.

"It was part of my job [at NSC], gathering information from any source I could," Bailey said. "You use whatever is at hand," he said, even if the source is "smelly."

Bailey said that he is "not a supporter" of LaRouche, and disagrees with him on some things, although he found his group to be "very supportive of the administration."

LaRouche, in a deposition, said that in the dinner conversation at the Woodburn Estate in March, Bailey asked his opinion on certain matters. LaRouche declined to discuss the conversation at length because he said it was a matter of "confidential national security."

While Bailey recently may have found LaRouche helpful, his dealings with the LaRouche group have not always been pleasant. In 1975, while he was a professor at Queens College, Bailey filed a libel suit against a group tied to LaRouche after it described him as a CIA agent and a "fascist," Bailey said.

The suit dragged on for years, until after the LaRouche supporters approached him at NSC, he said. In 1983, the two sides settled the suit after a newspaper affiliated with LaRouche agreed to publish a correction, and the group paid him a "monetary settlement," Bailey said. He declined to specify the amount.

Bailey said he continues to receive periodic telephone calls from a LaRouche aide asking his opinion on economic matters.

The LaRouche organization has dealt with other NSC personnel as well, council officials said.

One was Morris, William Clark's top aide. In an interview, Morris said he met four times with LaRouche while at NSC in 1982 and 1983, and had other meetings with his associates.

"We discussed matters of national security concern," Morris said in October testimony in a U.S. District Court trial in Alexandria.

(A federal court jury found that NBC had not defamed LaRouche, but ordered him to pay NBC \$3 million, after finding that his group had sabotaged a network interview with a U.S. senator.)

Among the topics he discussed with LaRouche were international economics and "strategic defenses," Morris testified. "He had an intelligence operation that gathered information that he thought was important to the national security."

"When they spoke in terms of technology or economics, they made good sense," Morris said in an interview. "They seemed to be qualified in their areas."

LaRouche said that he has had "continuing off-and-on contacts" with Morris even now that he's at Interior, and said the two are "old friends."

Morris said that the relationship is much more distant, and that he does not support LaRouche's positions.

Morris testified that he distributed among NSC officials some of the information provided by LaRouche and his associates.

In a letter to New Republic editors last month, LaRouche said that after the NBC

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broadcast critical of government officials dealing with LaRouche, the Reagan administration "distanced itself sharply from [LaRouche]." After the broadcast, some administration officials made statements "suddenly totally out of agreement" with earlier friendly statements, LaRouche wrote.

LaRouche associates also have tried to gain the confidence of top CIA officials.

LaRouche supporters telephone CIA officials "a lot" to offer information and try to get more, one knowledgeable official said. "They could consider that a two-way exchange. To my knowledge it is not a two-way exchange."

LaRouche said in an interview that he has visited the CIA's Langley headquarters a few times, and that his associates have visited many times.

A CIA spokesman said LaRouche, his wife and an aide visited the agency in January, 1983, and met with aides to Deputy Director John McMahon to talk about a recent LaRouche trip overseas. The CIA spokesman said LaRouche also visited earlier with Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, who was the agency's deputy director in 1981 and 1982.

Inman Recalls Visit

In an interview, Inman recalled the visit at his CIA office by LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who had just returned from Europe. He said that she gave enticing information about the West German Green Party, an antinuclear group. "At the time, nobody [in intelligence] was covering them at all," Inman said of the Greens.

Inman, now head of a Texas-based computer research organization, said the meeting was not extraordinary, because, as a CIA official, he sometimes met with people returning from overseas trips. He said he did not give information, but listened.

Inman and other intelligence officials said they doubt the stories, widely circulated inside the LaRouche group, that the organization has informants inside the CIA who provide it with intelligence.

Former associates said the organization dealt with several "cutouts," or intermediaries, who claimed they received confidential

reports from the CIA. The code name for one supposed CIA contact was "Mr. Ed," said ex-associates, who added they know of no confirmation that the contact existed.

The group has worked closely with a former CIA operative who has helped provide security and given information about the international narcotics trade, ex-members said.

The organization also had close ties for years with a former Office of Strategic Services guerrilla operative, Mitchell WerBell III, who introduced members to many intelligence and military figures, sources said.

The LaRouche-affiliated Schiller Institute—an international group named for

18th century poet Friedrich Schiller that says it is committed to the ideals of the American Revolution—lists on its advisory board several high-ranking retired and active-duty military officers.

The LaRouche group also tried for years to gain favor in the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Pentagon's intelligence arm. When DIA officials first met with LaRouche associates in the early 1970s, they were impressed with the group's intelligence material, said former DIA director Daniel Graham.

Graham recalled that LaRouche associates came up with what he called good intelligence about the situation in Angola, Mozambique and elsewhere. Graham said that in the mid-1970s, he and DIA colleagues concluded that some of the information was so sensitive that they suspected the LaRouche group was getting some of it from the Soviets or another government. Graham added that he couldn't prove the contention.

Ordered Contacts Stopped

Graham, a strong anticommunist, said that in the mid-1970s he ordered the DIA to stop dealing with the LaRouche group.

LaRouche associates strongly deny the assertion that the group is a stalking horse of any foreign government. "It's a weak disinformation slander put out by the KGB itself," said LaRouche aide Paul Goldstein.

The Heritage Foundation said in its July report that LaRouche takes positions "which in the end advance Soviet foreign policy goals . . . In the worst case, [his group] may well be the strangest asset for the KGB's disinformation effort."

The charge that the LaRouche-affiliated National Caucus of Labor Committees has ties to Soviet officials was first raised in 1979 by the National Review magazine in an article by a former associate of LaRouche. (It also has been raised in subsequent publications, such as The New Republic article, and in the NBC libel suit.) Some former intelligence officials say they back the ex-member's contention that in the 1970s the LaRouche group maintained contact with the Soviets through Gennady Serebreyakov, an official at the Soviets' United Nations mission.

LaRouche, in his letter to The New Republic, confirmed that Serebreyakov approached him sometime in the mid-1970s, and that the two met twice to try to end the feuding between the LaRouche organization and East Bloc nations. LaRouche said the effort was unsuccessful.

Jeffrey Steinberg, a top aide to LaRouche, said group members never passed any information to Serebreyakov. Steinberg also said the National Review article was largely incorrect.

Steinberg said LaRouche associates frequently invite Soviet officials to their sem-

inars. "We want them there" to know the group's thinking, he said. He said that LaRouche associates have visited the Soviet Union repeatedly. "They run into Soviet officials all the time," Steinberg said.

For his part, one retired senior military official, retired Army major general John K. Singlaub, has expressed concern about the group's contacts with him.

Singlaub recalled in an interview that in the late 1970s, when he was stationed at Fort McPherson, Ga., after a publicized clash with President Carter over U.S. policy in Korea, he was approached by LaRouche associates, who said they liked his hard-line style.

After Singlaub's 1978 retirement, they attended Singlaub's lectures all over the country, he said. They showed him their intelligence reports about Iran, Western Europe and other topics, and Singlaub said some of it was surprisingly good.

"Initially I was convinced they were trying to build up credibility that they had a good intelligence network that I could rely on," Singlaub said.

In 1979, he continued, the LaRouche supporters began telling him that the U.S. military deserved a "major break" and that Carter had done a disservice to the military.

"They said, 'You military people are going to be the savior of the country . . . We want to work closely with you. We have intelligence that can help you,'" Singlaub recalled.

Grew Suspicious of Goals

He said he grew suspicious of the LaRouche supporters' goals and cut off relations with them.

Just as Singlaub said the LaRouche supporters used pro-military rhetoric with him, a former Drug Enforcement Administration official said they expressed strong opposition to narcotics traffickers when talking with him.

"They took a basic law enforcement narcotics control position," said John Cusack, the DEA's former international operations chief, who added that around 1976 he started receiving telephone calls from LaRouche associates researching the narcotics trade, and had numerous discussions with them.

LaRouche associates asked "intelligent" questions, said Cusack, now a staff member at the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. "They always seemed to know what the [law enforcement] agencies were doing. They were well-informed . . . Sometimes they told me things I didn't know, but it turned out it was true." Cusack added that they had "very

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good contacts" with local police departments.

The group has cultivated these contacts for about 10 years, and many law enforcement officials subscribe to its publications.

In spring of 1977, LaRouche associates gave New Hampshire law enforcement officials detailed but speculative reports that the Clamshell Alliance, an antinuclear group then planning a protest at a nuclear plant, was a terrorist group financed by the Rockefellers. The May 1977 protest was not violent, although 1,400 people were arrested.

The group also has sold intelligence reports to a number of foreign governments, according to LaRouche and current and former associates. Steinberg said in a deposition that several years ago, LaRouche associates investigated terrorism for Italian officials. LaRouche said in an interview that his associates were hired to provide intelligence to the South African government. Ex-members said the intelligence reports dealt with the antiapartheid movement.

Some current and former U.S. officials who do not want to be identified, as well as ex-members, expressed concern that LaRouche's overseas activities may lead foreign leaders to think that he somehow represents the U.S. government, and take his statements as a "trial balloon" of U.S. policy.

At times LaRouche associates, identifying themselves as representatives of the LaRouche-affiliated National Democratic Policy Committee, arranged meetings with foreign leaders, who sometimes mistakenly thought they represented a faction of the Democratic Party, former associates of LaRouche and other sources said.

LaRouche said in an interview that he represents a "back channel," or confidential intermediary, for foreign officials who tire of dealing with the "idiots" in the State Department. "I'll telephone somebody [in the White House] and say, 'Look, a dear friend of ours in Mexico wants to have the president know something.'"

"Incredible Intelligence Files"

But foreign leaders sometimes express confusion about LaRouche's messages because of their often rambling nature, former associates said.

The LaRouche group has developed "incredible intelligence files" on foreign government, business and labor union officials, as well as their counterparts in this country, said one ex-member.

Some of the LaRouche associates who work on intelligence have university training in their areas. They keep up by reading dozens of newspapers from around the world and interviewing experts, former members said.

"Many, many times I'd find I knew more about what was going on than the academics," said one former member who worked on intelligence. "People on the outside would be saying I was insane [for being with LaRouche], but here I was talking to [a European head of state's] security man."

Graham, the former DIA director, said LaRouche's intelligence operation is no joke, and has developed contacts in the intelligence community.

"In my time in the intelligence community, I found too many gullible folk," Graham said. "I kept warning my people."

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'Star Wars' Work Is Focus Of Intelligence-Gathering

LaRouche Associates Query Top Scientists

By John Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

John Nuckolls, associate director for physics at a top California weapons research center, said he didn't know what to make of the Lyndon LaRouche associates he got to know a few years ago.

Nuckolls, who works on classified projects at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, recalls that starting in the 1970s, members of the LaRouche-affiliated Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF) doggedly called him and other scientists at his center and another at Los Alamos, N.M., to gossip and try to gather information.

Nuckolls said Livermore scientists "treated them with extreme caution," especially when the FEF members tried to steer conversation toward classified technology now known as "Star Wars" weapons—the futuristic space-based satellites that in theory would cripple incoming nuclear missiles.

"There was a lot of informal talk at the labs, saying, 'We don't know who these people are, what their sources of funding are,'" said Nuckolls, an administrator of a team doing some of the nation's most sensitive research on Star Wars, officially called the Strategic Defense Initiative.

An account of FEF's attempts to gather information from defense scientists and government officials first appeared last November in The New Republic magazine.

Nuckolls said that the LaRouche associates had "very extensive contacts" in the close-knit field of fusion energy, the science on which Star Wars technology is based.

In particular, the FEF members said they picked up "useful" information from "bar talk" with Soviet fusion scientists who "let their hair down," Nuckolls said. "The FEF seemed to be very adept at getting this gossip and spreading it around.

"The question in my mind was, 'Are they getting any information [about American research] they shouldn't have?'" Nuckolls said. He said he determined they were not receiving classified information.

Nuckolls was not alone in his concern.

A former ranking U.S. intelligence official said the LaRouche group's attempts to learn about classified Star Wars research is the most worrisome aspect of its intelligence-gathering.

John Bosma, a defense specialist, said he also is concerned because FEF members "have access to extremely sensitive and high-level information." Some FEF mem-

bers, physicists and other scientists, are "top drawer" in their technical expertise, said Bosma, formerly an aide to a congressman on the House Armed Services Committee.

The LaRouche organization strongly supports President Reagan's plan to undertake research into Star Wars technology. In fact, the group has claimed that it played a role in formulating Reagan's policy.

The LaRouche-affiliated FEF, a nonprofit organization, for years has promoted fusion energy. The media have quoted FEF members as experts in these fields, and top scientific researchers have granted interviews to the FEF magazine, Fusion.

In 1980 the magazine published an article by fusion scientist Friedwardt Winterberg on the technical workings of an H-bomb, along with diagrams, according to published reports.

Last year, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith received documents from the U.S. Department of Energy, under the Freedom of Information Act, showing that FEF members had frequent contacts with federal officials involving fusion energy. The documents detail phone calls between FEF members and federal energy officials in which they discussed technical questions such as Soviet breakthroughs in fusion energy and new research at Los Alamos.

A top Livermore Labs source, who did not want to be identified, said that one reason a number of scientists there spoke relatively freely with the FEF members is that so few policy-makers and scientists are involved in fusion energy.

"The tendency to give them the time of day is pretty strong," the source said. Scientists thought fusion energy was "the strangest thing in the world for a group like that to make an issue out of."

Nuckolls said that he stopped taking phone calls from FEF members a few years ago when the group intensified its rhetoric in attacking Henry Kissinger and others.

Some of the Fusion Energy Foundation's literature is arcane and technical. A book written by FEF staff members deals with such subjects as "K-alpha line ellipsoidal resonance mirrors" and the "MHD generator for pulsed thermonuclear reactions."

Fusion, the group's magazine, appeals to scientists because of its pronuclear and pro-research stance, Bosma said. He added that several years ago, when he worked at Boeing Aerospace Co. in Seattle, "I saw senior managers and engineers waving it around and saying, 'This is great stuff.' . . . Scientists are not street savvy."